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#12/Pre B
L Johnson
PATENT 2-25-98

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 07644/004001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Alan J. Kirby et al Art Unit: 2202
Serial No.: 08/963,512 Examiner:
Filed : November 3, 1997
Title : TRANSFERRING ENCRYPTED PACKETS OVER A PUBLIC NETWORK

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of handling network packets,
comprising:

B1
receiving an encrypted network [packets] packet from
[the] an external network at a [network interface] first
computer; and

determining whether to decrypt the encrypted network
packet at the first computer or to pass [passing] the encrypted
network [packets] packet to a computer on a[n] network that is
internal [network] with respect to the first computer for
decryption.

Date of Deposit February 9, 1998
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